

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-37 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, claims 1-37 have been rejected.

Double Patenting

Within the Office Action, claims 1-37 have been provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-49 of co-pending Application No. 09/801,072, and with claims 1-96 of co-pending Application No. 09/801,138.

The independent claims 1, 11, 20, 30, and 37 of the present application and the independent claims 1, 14, 27, 37, 41, 42, 43, and 47 of Application No. 09/801,072 vary in scope. Specifically, the independent claims 1, 11, 20, 30, and 37 of the present application are directed to performing a search using four search methodologies, performing the search on a searchable database formatted in a directory tree structure, and formatting a matching item from the search according to an encyclopedia-like entry. The independent claims 1, 14, 27, 37, 41, 42, 43, and 47 of Application No. 09/801,072 are directed to repeatedly performing a search using four search methodologies until a research task is completed. Therefore, the independent claims within the present application and the independent claims within the Application No. 09/801,072 are not directed to the same invention.

The independent claims 1, 11, 20, 30, and 37 of the present application and the independent claims 1, 15, 25, 39, 49, 63, 73, and 87 of Application No. 09/801,138 also vary in scope. Specifically, the independent claims 1, 11, 20, 30, and 37 of the present application are directed to performing a search using four search methodologies, performing the search on a searchable database formatted in a directory tree structure, and formatting a matching item from the search according to an encyclopedia-like entry. The independent claims 1, 15, 25, 39, 49, 63, 73, and 87 of Application No. 09/801,138 are directed to repeatedly performing a search using three search methodologies until a research task is completed. Therefore, the independent claims within the present application and the independent claims within the Application No. 09/801,138 are not directed to the same invention.

Specification

Within the Office Action, the Applicant is requested to submit the status of all related applications referenced within the specification. The status of the referenced applications is pending. By the above amendments, the status, filing data and serial number of each referenced co-pending application is included within the specification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-4, 7-14, 17-23, 26-33, and 36-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,098,066 issued to Snow et al. (hereafter "Snow"). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Snow teaches formatting a searchable database into a tree structure of directories. Each directory includes a document vector for each document within the directory. Each document vector is created by splitting the document into terms and associating a weight to each term based on the frequency with which the term is found in the document. In other words, each document is tagged with a list of terms, and their weights, found within the document. The tags are subsequently searched during keyword searches. Since most words in the document are tagged as "terms", the document vector does not effectively reduce the number of searchable keywords within the document. Snow then performs an adapted version of a keyword search. More specifically, Snow teaches categorizing documents, and then performing a keyword search by first specifying the category in which the keyword search is to be performed and then performing the keyword search within that category.

Further, Snow does not teach how a user subsequently searches the documents for specific values of predetermined parameters, for example using a parametric search. Snow teaches searching documents based on a keyword search of the indexed (tagged) terms. A keyword search is not the same as a parametric search. Snow is not designed to determine and tag documents according to their attribute-value pairs (parameter field names and their values), and to then search for documents according to specified values of predetermined parameters.

The present invention includes categorizing and parameterizing individual data items within a directory tree structure. Discrete data items can be located by defining a navigation path through the directory tree structure to a node associated with the discrete data item. Further, one or more parameters are associated with each discrete data item corresponding to a particular node. These one or more parameters are not keywords, or terms, as in Snow, but instead, each parameter defines a generic field (parameter field) to which a specific value corresponding to the

discrete data item is associated. For example, at a "real estate" node, a parameter field name can be "number of rooms" or "price". The parameter field name is different than the actual value eventually associated with the parameter field name in relation to a specific data item.

Continuing the example, homes for sale may be described in property fliers. A generic property flier can include many parameters used to describe the home for sale, where each parameter is identified by its parameter field name. The generic property flier can include parameters with parameter field names such as "number of bedrooms", "number of bathrooms", "square footage", "address", and "price". A particular data item associated with the real estate node can be a property flier for a specific home for sale. The parameter with parameter field name "number of bedrooms" has a value of "3", in this case, and so on for each of the parameters associated with the property flier. In this manner, it is clear that the value of each parameter, which is specific to a particular data item, is different than the parameter field name of each parameter, which generically defines the type of the parameter.

Snow teaches searching documents based on a keyword search. Snow does not teach determining and tagging documents according to their attribute-value pairs (parameter field names and their values), and to then search for documents within a directory tree structure according to specified values of the predetermined parameters.

Additionally, there is no hint, teaching or suggestion within Snow that indicates the use of a dichotomous key search. A dichotomous key search uses a dichotomous key structure, which is a binary key structure or two-node tree. This structure is used as a decision tree mechanism to instruct users in deciphering information given in an answer or question dialog, often a yes or no answer. Examples of this include diagnosing a medical disease, diagnosing a mechanical problem, and working a system such as classifying a biological species by physical attributes. The present application uses a dichotomous key search, as is claimed in the independent claims 1, 11, 20, 30, and 37.

Still further, within the Office Action, it is stated that because the category of Snow includes documents, Snow must include text or graphics when displayed to users. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this conclusion. The Applicant contends that there is no support within Snow to reach such a conclusion. In column 8, lines 28-31 of Snow, it is stated that at step 114 (Figure 7 of Snow) information corresponding to each document is displayed by category, and that this information includes a synopsis and document link. In other words, text. Snow does not teach that the information is displayed in an encyclopedia-like entry. The encyclopedia-like entry of the present invention includes a graphics section, a text section, an

internal links section, and an external links section (Specification , page 25, line 3 to page 26, line 3).

Claim 1 is directed to a method of formatting information within a directory tree structure. The method of Claim 1 comprises the steps of performing a search by utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, selecting one of the matching items, formatting the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and displaying the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As discussed above, Snow does not teach searching for documents within a directory tree structure according to specified values of predetermined parameters. Further, Snow does not teach using a dichotomous key search. Still further, Snow does not teach formatting and displaying related data in an encyclopedia-like entry. For at least these reasons the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 2-4 and 7-10 depend on the independent claim 1. As described above, the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 2-4 and 7-10 are also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 11 is directed to an organization system for formatting information within a directory tree structure. The organization system of Claim 11 is configured to perform a search by utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, to select one of the matching items, to format the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and to display the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As discussed above, Snow does not teach searching for documents within a directory tree structure according to specified values

of predetermined parameters. Further, Snow does not teach using a dichotomous key search. Still further, Snow does not teach formatting and displaying related data in an encyclopedia-like entry. For at least these reasons the independent claim 11 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 12-14 and 17-19 depend on the independent claim 11. As described above, the independent claim 11 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 12-14 and 17-19 are also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 20 is directed to an organization system for formatting information within a directory tree structure. The organization system of Claim 20 comprises means for performing a search by utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, means for selecting one of the matching items, means for formatting the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and means for displaying the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As discussed above, Snow does not teach searching for documents within a directory tree structure according to specified values of predetermined parameters. Further, Snow does not teach using a dichotomous key search. Still further, Snow does not teach formatting and displaying related data in an encyclopedia-like entry. For at least these reasons the independent claim 20 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 21-23 and 26-29 depend on the independent claim 20. As described above, the independent claim 20 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 21-23 and 26-29 are also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 30 is directed to an organization system for formatting information within a directory tree structure. The organization system of Claim 30 comprises one or more computer systems configured to communicate with other systems, and an organization server configured to couple to the one or more computer systems to perform a search by utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree

structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, to select one of the matching items, to format the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and to display the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As discussed above, Snow does not teach searching for documents within a directory tree structure according to specified values of predetermined parameters. Further, Snow does not teach using a dichotomous key search. Still further, Snow does not teach formatting and displaying related data in an encyclopedia-like entry. For at least these reasons the independent claim 30 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 31-33 and 36 depend on the independent claim 30. As described above, the independent claim 30 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 31-33 and 36 are also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 37 is directed to a method of formatting information within a directory tree structure. The method of Claim 37 comprises the steps of performing a search by utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, selecting one of the matching items, formatting the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, wherein the encyclopedia-like entry includes text, graphics, links to related topics within the directory tree structure, links to related web sites external to the directory tree structure, or any combination thereof, and displaying the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As discussed above, Snow does not teach searching for documents within a directory tree structure according to specified values of predetermined parameters. Further, Snow does not teach using a dichotomous key search. Still further, Snow does not teach formatting and displaying related data in an encyclopedia-like entry. For at least these reasons the independent claim 37 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 5-6, 15-16, 24-25, and 34-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Snow in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,327,588 issued to Danish et al. (hereafter "Danish"). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 5-6 are dependent on the independent claim 1. Claims 15-16 are dependent on the independent claim 11. Claims 24-25 are dependent on the independent claim 20. Claims 34-35 are dependent on the independent claim 30. As discussed above, the independent claims 1, 11, 20, and 30 are each allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 5-6, 15-16, 24-25, and 34-35 are also each allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-37 are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he/she is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 530-9700.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

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